

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE SUMMARY)

1. The VNOS (Vuzdushno Nablyudenie Opređenje i Svürska; Air Observation, Identification, and Communication) is a subordinate unit of the PVKhO (Protivo-Vuzdushna i Khimicheska Otrana; Antiaircraft and Chemical Warfare Defense). Before 1950 or 1951 VNOS had only a single Polk (regiment) for all Bulgaria, but it was subsequently expanded to three regiments:
 - a. Regiment One, with headquarters in Sofia, is principally concerned with the Yugoslav border.
 - b. Regiment Two, with headquarters in Stara Zagora, is principally concerned with the Turkish and Greek borders.
 - c. Regiment Three, with headquarters at Provadiya, is principally concerned with the Black Sea and Danube areas.
2. Headquarters of Regiment One, formerly located on the road leading from Dirvenitsa (N 42-39, E 23-22) to the Sofia-Pancherevo (N 42-36, E 23-25) highway, were moved in 1951 to Sofia, on Nikolay Nikolayevich Boulevard and opposite Boris Park.
3. Each regiment has a number of Rotten (Company) Post, each of which has a varying number of Nablyudatelen (Observation) Post. The last-named is the smallest unit, consisting of about five men. A Rotten Post can have up to ten Nablyudatelen Post and, with its own staff of 15 men, may attain a total strength of up to 65 men.
4. Sightings of aircraft are passed from the Nablyudatelen Post to the Rotten Post to the Polkoviy (regimental) Post. From the Polkoviy Post they go to the central PVKhO Post near Sofia (see Appendix A). Regiment One, because of its location in Sofia, has no Polkoviy Post, and its Rotten Post send their sightings directly to the central PVKhO Post. A Nablyudatelen Post can, under certain circumstances, communicate directly with the central PVKhO Post.

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NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".

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5. Sightings are reported either by telephone or by radio, while some Posts have both facilities. The VNOS telephone reports are made over the civil telephone system, but each Nablyudatelen Post has automatic, battery-operated relays through which the Post can interrupt all civil telephonic communications. If there should be a malfunction of the relays, the Nablyudatelen Post or Rotten Post can obtain priority over civil calls by saying *Vishukh*, followed by a two-digit number. This number varies daily in accordance with a list which is provided monthly. The telephone system is tested twice nightly for operation, even though no sightings may have been reported. Such tests are made at night so as not to interrupt unnecessarily the civil system.
6. Most Nablyudatelen Posts are located in the border areas, 30 to 35 kilometers from each other; very few Posts are located in the interior. Full coordination with Rumania is maintained from the Post at Ruse, which is located in a villa to the south of the city (approximately N 43-49-40, E 25-58-30). Both telephonic and radio communication are tested every two hours, and it is reasonably certain that the answering Post is located at or near Bucharest. The code used for reporting is the same as that for the internal Bulgarian network. The radio set at the Ruse Post is of Soviet origin (type RSB) and is used for Morse only. The Rumanian Post is manned with Bulgarian-speaking personnel. As far as is known, there is no coordination with Albania from Bulgarian Post near the Yugoslav border.
7. A Rotten Post is located on a hill just outside the town of Ferdinand (N 43-24, E 23-14). It occupies a hunting lodge not far from some historic ruins atop the hill (approximately N 43-09-25, E 23-13-20). This post has both telephone and radio communication facilities. The following Nablyudatelen Posts are known to be subordinate to it:
 - a. Chiporovtsi (N 43-23, E 22-53).
 - b. Gorni Lom (N 43-29, E 22-44).
 - c. Berkovitsa (N 43-14, E 23-07).
 - d. Kom (N 43-10, E 23-05).
 - e. Kalotina (N 42-59, E 22-52). This post was moved from Radomir to Kalotina in March 1952.
 - f. Nedelishte (N 42-53, E 22-50).
 - g. Trun (N 42-50, E 22-39).
8. The location of the observation post near Dragomirovo village (N 43-31, E 25-16) is shown in Appendix B.
9. Soldiers of the VNOS are given training in basic telecommunications and in aircraft identification. Training in identification is restricted to types of aircraft used in World War II, except for a few such types of Western jets as the United States F-86 (Sabre) and the F-80 (Shooting Star). All Soviet jets are regarded as military secrets. No training in sound identification is given. When visibility is good, soldiers are required to report all aircraft sightings within a radius of 15 kilometers.
10. All planes, both friendly and enemy, must be reported, and all observations are reported in code. The code for a complete message must be compiled within 20 to 25 seconds.

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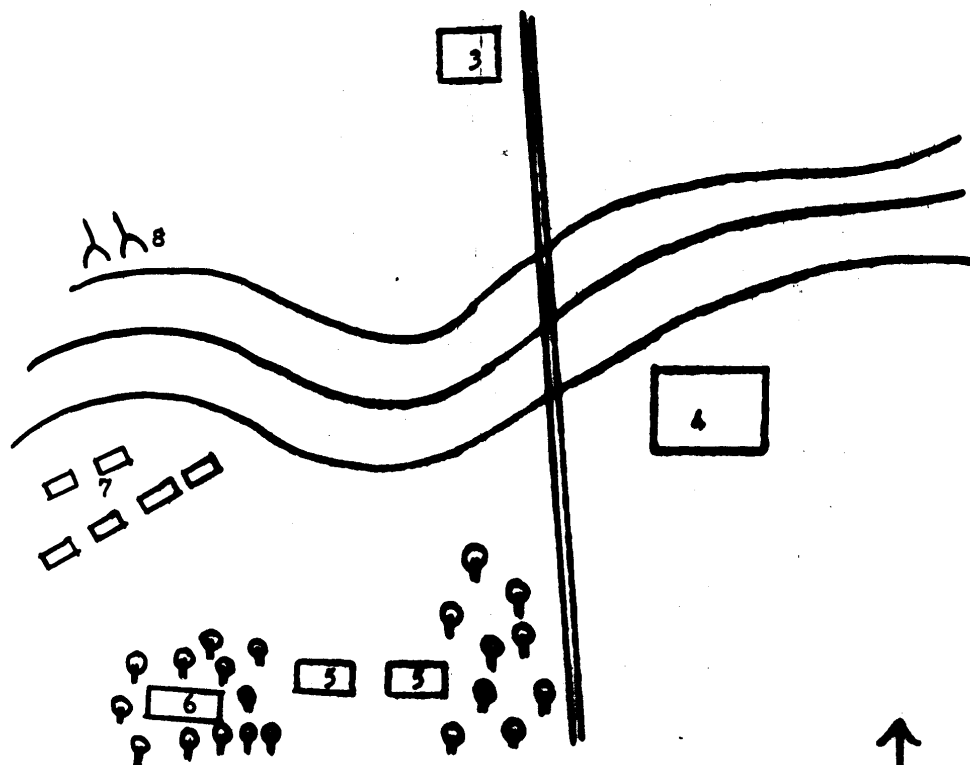
Appendix A

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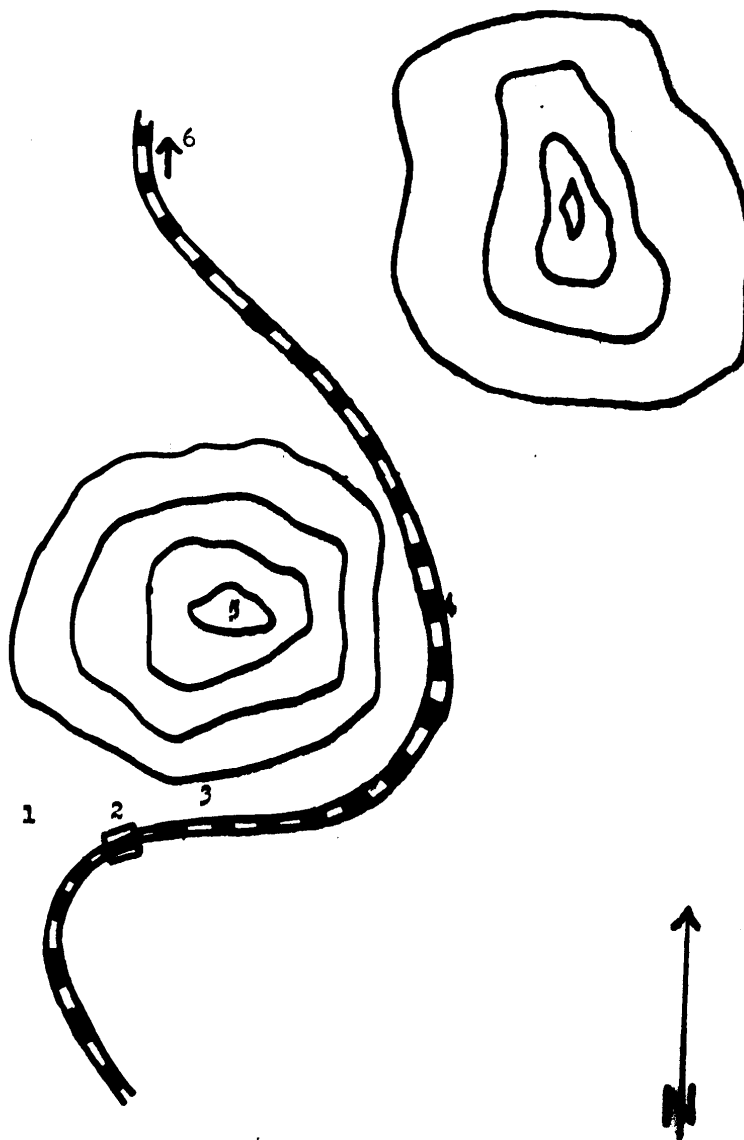
**Legend**

1. Center of Sofia.
2. Sofia-Dragelevtsi road.
3. Military School.
4. Former arms depot.
5. PVRKhO headquarters in two wooden structures.
6. VNOS central post.
7. Barracks.
8. Antiaircraft battery.

Note: It is rumored that both PVRKhO headquarters and the VNOS central post are to move into Sofia in case of an emergency. The new location is supposed to be underneath the Sudebna Palata (Palace of Justice), not far from the central post office.

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Legend

1. Western part of Dragomirovo village.
2. Dragomirovo railroad station.
3. Headquarters of Border Guards.
4. Eastern part of Dragomirovo village.
5. Aircraft observation post in a small brick structure.
6. To Rumanian frontier.

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